

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 13:44:34 1995
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.ge.com
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 10:33:32 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <950130103332.2240bd5a@cayman.vf.ge.com>
Subject: RE: 100 kHz crystals

Larry, last week you wrote concerning the small 1f quartz crystal available from Digi-Key:

> Looks like a very compact frequency calibrator for building inside QRP rigs
> could be made using one of these; I've ordered a couple to play with, so
> stay tuned. I believe that putting one of these critters in the gate
> circuit of a junction FET (MF102, etc.) would not exceed the maximum drive
> level -- any comments on this? Maybe one would have to go to a CMOS FET?
> I'm assuming a drain voltage of 5V or less.

> Other crystals of the same general configuration are available in several
> discrete frequencies from 20 kHz to 60 kHz. Has anyone had any experience
> using this type of crystal?

I do have some experience with this kind of crystal. I worked for Pulsar, the inventor of the digital display wristwatch. They finally realized they couldn't make it in the marketplace with "All-American" parts - became another retailer of Japanese watch movements....but that's another story.

Anyway, the common watch movements use this type of crystal as their standard time/frequency source. The usual oscillator is a kind of "crystal Colpitts" with a CMOS gate as the amplifier element. The Old RCA CMOS data books (Purple Cover) and Application notes circa 1970-1976 and Motorola CMOS Application Note Books from the same era have some excellent circuits. They are low power, don't overdrive the crystals and good enough stability to use for a ham receiver calibrator.

If you want, I can probably dig up some old info for you.

72/73,

Joe E. N2CX

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 03:37:12 1995
Date: Sun, 29 Jan 1995 21:26:08 -0800 (PST)
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: Fox hunt scheds
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950129212451.3828B-100000@crl10.crl.com>

What are the fox hunt schedules (CW and SSB) for this week (29 Jan)?

Thanks,

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 13:49:46 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 08:04:02 -0700 (MST)
From: Robert Cutter <bcutter@csn.org>
Subject: Re: Fox hunt scheds
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9501300848.A12501-0100000@teal.csn.org>

CW is 0200-0300z(Monday night local) on 7.110 and 0300-0330z 7.040

72, Bob KI0G

On Sun, 29 Jan 1995, H Smith wrote:

> What are the fox hunt schedules (CW and SSB) for this week (29 Jan)?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Smitty, NA5K
>
> Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)
>
>
>

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 21:51:15 1995
Message-Id: <9501302257.AA06333@garnet.inel.gov>
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 15:58:56 -0700
From: LVE1@inel.gov (Larry East)
Subject: MAC to PC File Conversion

Does anyone know of any good MAC to PC file conversion utilities
(commercial, shareware, whatever) available out there? Thanks for any info --

"Any opinions expressed herein are my own and probably do
not agree with those of my employer, the U.S. Government
or my spouse"

--... ..--
Larry V. East (W1HUE)
Idaho Falls, ID
e-mail: LVE1@inel.gov
Packet: W1HUE@WT7B.ID.USA.NOAM

work: (208) 533-4005 home: (208) 529-2162

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 11:22:49 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 13:11:00 +0000
From: william.redfearn.cmwd01@nt.com
Message-Id: <"28512 Mon Jan 30 07:13:31 1995"@nt.com>
Subject: Mizuho MX-7S 40M SSB/CW HT - For Sale

For Sale:

Mizuho MX-7S HT transceiver
2 watts output SSB/CW
VXO frequency control
crystals for:
7.018 - 7.042 Mhz
7.075 - 7.100 Mhz
7.257 - 7.290 Mhz

Superhet receiver with RIT and noise blanker.
small - approx. 1 X 3 X 6 inches
with 40 M whip antenna and photocopy of manual.
Good condition, works great, a couple of scratches on the case.

\$200.00 OBO includes UPS shipping in USA.

=====
Dave Redfearn, SR PC LAN Analyst Northern Telecom RTP, NC.
ph.(919) 992-3925 email: cmwd01@nt.com qrl? de N4ELM/qrp

All opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of
my employer, co-workers or any other person, real or imaginary.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 13:28:03 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 09:26:02 -0800
From: faunt@netcom.com (Doug Faunt N6TQS 510-655-8604)
Message-Id: <199501301726.JAA22330@netcom17.netcom.com>
Subject: Mizuho MX-7S 40M SSB/CW HT - For Sale

Another QRP rig for sale.

From: cmwd01@nt.com (Dave Redfearn)
Newsgroups: rec.radio.swap
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 08:41:54
Organization: Bell Northern Research

For Sale:

Mizuho MX-7S HT transceiver

2 watts output SSB/CW
VXO frequency control
crystals for:
7.018 - 7.042 Mhz
7.075 - 7.100 Mhz
7.257 - 7.290 Mhz
Superhet receiver with RIT and noise blanker
small - approx. 1 X 3 X 6 inches
with 40M whip antenna and photocopy of manual
Good condition, a couple of scratches on the case, works great

\$200.00 OBO includes UPS shipping in USA.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 15:45:39 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 19:20:00 +0000
From: william.redfearn.cmwd01@nt.com
Message-Id: <"3811 Mon Jan 30 13:23:00 1995"@nt.com>
Subject: re:Mizuho MX-7S 40M SSB/CW HT - For Sale

I don't know how this got crossposted but I did not do it.

=====
Dave Redfearn, SR PC LAN Analyst Northern Telecom RTP, NC.
ph.(919) 992-3925 email: cmwd01@nt.com qrl? de N4ELM/qrp

All opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of
my employer, co-workers or any other person, real or imaginary.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 05:27:41 1995
From: ab4el@cybernetics.net (Stephen Modena)
Message-Id: <9501300810.AA04238@cybernetics.net>
Subject: My Fox hunt Schedule for Jan 31.
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 03:10:01 -0500 (EST)

SSB FOX HUNT -- TUESDAY 31 JAN EASTERN TIME

Just below is the email I received from Ron N8VAR, the SSB QRP
Fox for this week. Please note that the CW QRP Fox, KI0G, is
running 31 Jan *UTC*...which is tonight MONDAY.

Ron has chosen to stick with the "standard" frequencies and
segments...and may I (AB4EL) remind people that for your QSO
with the Fox to count (for you...and for him), it must originate
and go to completion with *both* sides running QRP. :^)

===== Ron's Schedule Follows =====

Tuesday Evening 31 January 1995

09:00 - 09:30pm EST 7.225 - 7.230 MHz
09:30 - 10:00pm EST 7.210 - 7.220 MHz
 Band Switch
10:00 - 10:30pm EST 3.780 - 3.788 MHz
10:30 - 11:00pm EST 3.905 - 3.910 MHz

The winter weather has not been kind to my antenna. It tunes great on 40 but is not so good on 80. I hear pretty good but don't seem to be getting with as strong a signal as I would like. I will be running a TS-430S turned down to 10 watts p-p by turning the mike gain down and using the whistle method to set the power. The antenna is a Multiband Dipole with the feed point about 20 feet up. The ends are at about 6 to 8 feet up.

72,

Ron Doyle, N8VAR
AT&T GIS - Dayton
Work (513) 445-3179
Home (513) 237-0790
<Ronald.Doyle@DaytonOH.NCR.COM> or
<RonaldDoyle@Ichange.com>

Practice Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty

--

73/Steve/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET in Raleigh, NC 35.81245N, 78.65849W

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 07:26:25 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 10:11:32 GMT
From: Goran Hosinsky <hosinsky@royac4.royac.iac.es>
Message-Id: <9501301011.AA12083@royac4.royac.iac.es>
Subject: Need info from Jan 74 QST re PM3 mod

Hi! I can send you a copy of jan 74 QST if you cannot find it nearby, but post takes a long time from here.

73 Goran ea8yu

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 04:17:02 1995
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: New S&S QRP rig--with rotary knob!
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 95 00:32:57 EST5EDT
Message-Id: <1995Jan30.003257.14554@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

NEW QRP RIG FROM S&S ENGINEERING--WITH A TUNING KNOB!

The second annual Md. Mobileers hamfest was held as scheduled on 29 Jan 95 in Odenton, MD, and KA3ZOW and N3SAD (Dick and Kathy of S&S Engineering) were there as promised with the prototype of their newest QRP rig. The name is TAC1, and it really does have a rotary tuning knob with LCD display, just like they said. This one is for 80 meters, expected to be available in mid-March, with another band (probably 40M) to follow about a month later. Dick said he will eventually make 20 and 30 meter versions, and maybe, maybe not, one for 15M.

Comments from the brochure--"S&S Engineering has taken a giant leap forward! Available February 28th, 1995--the TAC1--a KNOB TUNED, digital display rig!" And further down the page, right under the drawing of the rig, "We heard you...We heard you..." No push button tuning in this one!

The knob on the TAC1 is actually a 32 position rotary shaft encoder, and it feeds a microcontroller which commands the synthesizer. The LCD readout uses a 4 1/2 digit display. That first half digit, which would only read a "1" if enabled, is permanently blanked and the remaining 4 full digits show 100, 10 and 1 KHz, as well as 100 Hz. Tuning this sucker is a real pleasure compared to the push buttons of the other rigs, although I hope he doesn't phase those out--that tuning method does have its advantages. Spin the knob, and at each detent the display goes up or down by 0.1 KHz. And, unlike the push button rigs, when you're on, say, 3559.9 and nudge it up by another 100 Hz, it rolls over to 3560.0, not back down to 3559.0.

If you've seen one of his flyers, you'll note there is no visible way to switch between 100 Hz or 1 KHz steps. Don't worry, you don't have to drag out an electric motor to tune from one end of the band to the other in a hurry--it does have a tuning speed switch, but it's hidden in the shaft encoder. Lightly push in on the knob (it doesn't even click), and it toggles between slow (100 Hz) and fast (1 KHz) tuning. It took some time getting used to pushing in on the knob to change speeds--the learning curve lasted almost a half second! It's pretty nice--zip across the band in 1 KHz steps to get from point A to point B, then toggle over to 100 Hz and enjoy yourself.

One potentially confusing aspect of the rig is the name--it's TAC1, regardless of what band it covers. Dick said he didn't want to go to the bother and expense of making a number of panel overlays. I suggested that he might want to do what TenTec did with the Scout, and have some sort of permanently attached digit painted or glued on, to the left of the LCD digits. He said the software will eventually

display the Megahertz briefly at power-on, but having some permanently visible indicator of band would be helpful. (How'd you like to walk up to a strange rig and not be able to tell what band it's for?)

This rig is about the same size as the ARK4, but taller, at 2 1/2" high. Interestingly, the only reason for that is the front panel and display. The size of the processor/display board dictates the height of the front panel, but the guts of the rig are on a single PCB, just like the ARK4. (It resembles it strongly, and is a work of art.) That means there is a lot of unused volume inside, which just begs for some sort of add-on, with lots of room to build in goodies of your choosing. There are no wires in this rig, either, just like the ARK4; even the jacks are mounted on the board.

A word of warning from 7 years of experience working part time at a ham store fixing broken rigs: I repaired a huge number of handhelds which had speaker/mic jacks mounted solely by the solder lugs on the PCB--over time, when the connectors are used a lot, the lugs tend to break loose from the solder and give intermittent or open connections. The fix is simple--just solder the suckers down again. I didn't notice if the PCB-mounted jacks in the TAC1 are stress-relieved by having nuts hold them to the panel, and I can't remember how the ARK4 did it. If they are held in place solely by the solder lugs, you might eventually experience some problems a couple years down the road. Just keep this in the back of your mind so if it happens you know what to do; and as I said, the fix is quite simple, just resolder them and you're good for another several years. This isn't just applicable to the TAC1--anything with PCB-mounted jacks is susceptible if the bodies of the jacks are not secured in some way.

There are two cables inside, between the front panel PCB and main board, and between the rotary encoder and the front panel board. Both simply plug in.

Audio--this was a sore point with some people on the ARK4 (including me), and it looks like Dick fixed it here. (He said he paid a great deal of attention to the audio due to comments on the other rig.) The ARK4 used an op-amp to directly drive headphones and appears to be sensitive to the impedance of the phones used, which would help explain how different people could get different results even from the same rig--loan it to Joe blow to try out, but he uses his own phones on it and it behaves differently. My main complaint on the ARK4 was that there was a 10 KHz whine clearly audible at all times with the volume turned down completely. The TAC1 does not have it; Dick let me listen to it with headphones, and at zero volume there was dead quiet. He uses an LM-386 in this rig, so it can drive a

speaker directly (something the ARK4 was not designed to do). There is only one audio jack, on the front panel.

The rear panel contains the BNC antenna connector (I love BNCs), as well as a pair of key jacks. Dick said the extra jack, like the one on the ARK4, is for a keyer paddle--you can still connect a straight key, contest keyer, etc, when a paddle is plugged in. He said there is no keyer module in this one--the TAC1 will emulate it in software (the code is not yet written). I told him about the well documented problems TenTec had in the Scout with doing that, frequency stability concerns, but I don't think that will be a problem in this case due to the fundamental difference in frequency control. The Scout used an analog VFO with frequency stabilized by the processor, while Dicks rig uses a digitally commanded synthesizer. (I have never tried a Scout so can't report first hand on it, but "they" say that the processor constantly corrects the frequency of the analog VFO except when in CW transmit, and then it has to concentrate on emulating a keyer and neglects the frequency control for a while.)

Frequency coverage of the 80 meter TAC1 is listed as 3.500 to 3.750 MHz. While playing with the rig I noticed that the display kept on going past 3750. There was almost dead silence on the band due to the time of day and poor antenna, so I asked Dick how far it would go beyond the specified 3.750 and he said it would keep on until the synthesizer ran out of steam and "lost it". He indicated that future software will make it stop at 3750.

Performance--can't really say much on this one; I'd pretty much have to put a check mark in the "Not Observed" block. I always see Dick at hamfests where his rigs are on the air under less than ideal conditions, ie, using just a mobile whip. (He sometimes has a homebrew rotary 40M loaded dipole on a push up mast, but not today.) This time he had two strikes against him when he took it out to his truck in the melting Maryland snow and hooked it up for me--it was 80 meters at 10 in the morning, and a 40 meter Hustler whip! I did eventually find a very weak packet station and an even weaker CW signal; all I could say was that the claimed single signal reception does exist and the switchable audio filter does work. I hope to eventually get my hands on a unit to do some testing on signal generators and spectrum analyzers. Local QRP'er K2EB was also at the hamfest, and he agreed to borrow the rig from me for a while and do some on-the-air tests. (He has an 80M antenna, while I don't and neither does my usual on-the-air tester, WA4KAC.)

Birdies--Dick admits that it has some, but said he only counted 12 across the tuning range, and most quite weak. I found a pair of them myself; one was hard to hear, and the stronger of the two was right in the middle of the digital segment, where a CW person wouldn't

normally go anyhow. I like the way the birdies tuned--you move the knob to go 100 Hz away but the birdie moves much farther, and after a click or two it's completely gone. Avoiding them should be easy. (I wouldn't criticize S&S too much on the birdies--just about any synthesized rig known to Man is bound to have them; I know my TS-430S does, and someone else standing there admitted his Icom IC-735 has its share. Reviews of commercial rigs over the years sometimes mention them.)

Miscellaneous technical comments--The TAC1, or at least the 80M version, uses a 12 MHz IF. The power is specified at a minimum of 3 watts output. The receiver has RIT; it's always on, with no switch, but has a center detent. This rig is full QSK like all his others. I didn't notice if he retains the somewhat-noisy relay that some folks complained about or went to electronic T/R switching. The circuit boards are both glass epoxy and silk screened.

The price for the TAC1 is given as \$199.95, plus shipping, for the complete kit. (It's not broken down a la carte as the ARK4 is. You can't get a partial kit on this one.) The bottom of the brochure says "These are going to go like hotcakes, but, as always, we will endeavor to keep you supplied." Every time I ask Dick about sales on his other rigs he's rather vague and noncommittal, but I'll go out on a limb and say this one, with the rotary tuning and digital display, should prove to be quite popular and may eventually outsell all the others combined.

Disclaimer: I have no interest in S&S Engineering, am not related to Dick or Kathy, and, being 2 hours away by car, am not a next door neighbor.

[Dick: this was done from memory of our meeting; if I made any factual errors, I'll be glad to post a correction.]

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 10:36:37 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 09:39:59 -0330 (NST)
From: Robert Gobrick <bgobrick@random.ucs.mun.ca>
Subject: Re: New S&S QRP rig--with rotary knob!
Message-Id: <Pine.ULT.3.91.950130093840.28934D@random.ucs.mun.ca>

Mike - thanks for the nice "brief" review on the new S&S TAK1. the rig looks liek a winner and I for one will be taking a close look at it. Thanks for your review - jsut great.

72 Bob VO1DRB/WA6ERB

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 12:57:17 1995
From: swm@holawa.att.com
Message-Id: <9501301412.AA00780@ig1.att.att.com>
Date: 30 Jan 95 09:14:00 -0500
Subject: OHR Classic and key clicks

Last week Chuck Adams sent email about changes to the Classic to eliminate a key click. I have found a simpler way requiring only one resistor change on the oscillator board. I am writing an article for QQ on the change (among other things) and can post the article to the net (sans figures) if there is further interest. I finished the article today.

I found that the source of the key click stems from the RIT circuitry. The RIT circuitry switched from TX mode to RX mode in 2 ms, while the transmitter was still putting out power, typically for 5 ms. Moreover, the control voltage to D106, the RIT control has a nasty pulse on it due to the excessive base current in Q103. My solution is to replace R126 (10K) with a 220K - 330K resistor (not critical). The key click went away.

72 de ND3P Scott McLellan swm@holawa.att.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 02:14:53 1995
Message-Id: <9501300419.AA21163@ig1.att.att.com>
From: mvjfm@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Date: 29 Jan 95 23:17:00 -0500
Subject: Re: QRP Afield - Terrific Contest

Re: QRP-Afield:

Byron WA8LCZ....

<I will attempt to answer your questions.>

Why didnt you print the rigs/antenna/power/bands operated info with the scores for QRP Afield like ARCI and Mich QRP do ? I was expecting to see this, it helps me to figure out how to do better next time. Then you wont have to guess how many were using kits or 60 ft towers with beams.

< The top 13 scores were "Field" stations. Maybe these clever rascals will write and tell us in detail how they did it>

It also seems unfair to list clubs with single entries. How many operators did they have in that club, 10, 20 ? How many rigs on the air at one time, 3, 6 ?

<No limit to the number of operators. However, only one transmitter on the air at one time !>

Didnt the Zuny Loopers disqualify themselves once for having too many operators at field day?

< Actually, The person that does the counting also brings the wine. He said he had trouble counting some operators who just would not sit still. The following year, he said the count was hampered by heavy smoke from a forrest fire. They were going to ask the guy who brings the salad to do the counting but were afraid the wine guy would be angry and not show up>

I always thought that there should be two sets of awards, one to kit users and one to commercial rig users. there isnt a kit alive that can complete with a kenwood 950 or Yaesu FT1000.

< Chuck, K5FO sponsored one trophy. Would you like to sponsor one for commercial rigs ? >

Are you sure you dont want to run a Spring Afield ? It sure would put the New England club in the forefront of QRP contesting.

< We dont pay the contest manager very much now (but his hours are excellent) and we are afraid he will ask for a raise>

Also, in your Pres letter, you said the ARCI is looking for a new qualified president, what happened to Les ? and were you saying he wasnt qualified ? Whats happening with the ARCI and what about Dayton ?

< Les, who is very well qualified, offered to take the position temporatily until a permanent candidate was accepted by the BOD>

< QRP-ARCI will be at Dayton, and over 50 hotel rooms full of excited QRPers, also a string of QRP forums, Multi-QRP Info booths, a QRP flea market space, QRP hospitality suite, official ARCI club meeting, the famous QRP Pizza Party, famous QRPers that we read about, and many world-wide active QRP club members.>

72 Jim

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 12:57:54 1995
From: scott.thomas@circellar.com

Message-Id: <9501300837.0C4EQ00@circellar.com>

Date: Mon, 30 Jan 95 08:37:44 -0500

Subject: QRP RIG FOR SALE

For Sale...

TenTec Argosy II (525D) with Digital Freq Display.

The radio has just been checked-out and aligned by TT.

Bands: 3.5, 7, 10, 14, 21, 28

Modes: USB, LSB, CW

RF Out: 0-5w, or 0-50w

RX Draw: 690ma with display on, 390ma with display turned off.

Installed Options: Model 225 matching P.S., 2.4Khz Filter, Model 223A

Noise Blanker, Model 1125 Circuit Breaker.

Price: \$525. Will also consider trade for equipment of equal value.

Scott Thomas.

scott.thomas@circellar.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 08:17:55 1995

Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 10:47:43 GMT

From: Goran Hosinsky <hosinsky@royac4.royac.iac.es>

Message-Id: <9501301047.AA12191@royac4.royac.iac.es>

Subject: R2 phase splitter bandwidth

Hi Gang;

Anyone knows how frequency critical the 90deg phase splitter for the R2 receiver is. Can one use the same splitter for a whole amateur band or must the use be limited to a few KHz? Was thinking of using the QST jan 93 page 37 fig 6C version.

Saludos

Goran, ea8yu

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 15:54:45 1995

Message-Id: <199501301509.HAA12071@holonet.net>

Subject: Re: R2 phase splitter bandwidth

Date: Mon, 30 Jan 95 7:09:08 PST

From: John Seboldt <rohrwerk@holonet.net>

> Hi Gang;

> Anyone knows how frequency critical the 90deg phase splitter for the

> R2 receiver is. Can one use the same splitter for a whole amateur band

> or must the use be limited to a few KHz?

Works fine over a whole band, Goran. Rejection does change slightly from one end of the band to the other, but is quite acceptable throughout.

> Was thinking of using the
> QST jan 93 page 37 fig 6C version.

[This is the "pi" network with a splitter before]

That's what I'm using; seems very easy to adjust.

> Saludos
> Goran, ea8yu

John K0JD

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 23:18:15 1995
Message-Id: <199501310253.SAA13918@netcom.netcom.com>
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 95 15:22:58 EST
From: C=BAILEY%IS%211EIS@PAMDT.ANG.AF.MIL
Subject: REAL FOX HUNT

After operating portable during the pleasant fall season, I thought I would operate from the home QTH using my NorCal 40. Maybe, I'll even chase the Internet Fox! But, there it was. The most undesirable signal I have ever heard. A raspy, loud, screaming buzz! It was about 25 kHz wide and started at about 7.030 kHz. Well, I went to try mobile from the car. Maybe then I could escape the grip of that screaming demon. I drove around the block and noticed that it was somewhere within 300 yards of my QTH. It would figure. Then, I tried tuning the NorCal 40 into my Hamstick on the car, and poof. I blew Q7 trying to tune the antenna. Well, this is a hobby, so I did not get mad....not!

Okay, so in the meantime, I'll build my Sierra rig. That will take my mind off the QRM and maybe 20 meters will be more quiet. I got the Sierra all tuned and ready to go. I listened as I turned on the rig. What DX will I hear? None! The noise is just as loud.....this is just a hobby, right?

I was determined to get to the source of this. I went to the local hamfest to look for a new Q7. Well, no luck. But, I did manage to convince a guy to help me out by selling me a portable shortwave receiver for \$20. I gave him my sad tale of woe. He was sympathetic to my cause. A few days later, I asked my young son, Caleb, if he would like to go for a walk around the neighborhood with me and my portable radio. (Only a 6 year old would be seen with his dad snooping around electric meters with a shortwave receiver). We are going on a REAL fox hunt!

After sniffing around we found what we thought was the house of the noise. I bravely knocked on the door, my son still trying to figure out what the point was here. An elderly lady answered the door. Ma'am, do you have any "Touch Lamps" or light dimmers? Why yes, she said. I have 2 touch lights. A smile went across my face. "Do you mind unplugging them"? I told her that I was a shortwave listener. Which is true. I never tell my neighbors I'm a ham....I'll get blamed for everything from defective dish washers to the pet cat having deformed kittens!

She went and unplugged both and the noise disappeared! My son wondered how something so stupid could make his dad so happy. Well, we left the house after trial and error and I had the screaming demon in hand. I put a Corcom filter in line and it still was there. A desperate call to Mike, W3TS, and he explained what he did. He found two touch lamps causing him grief. He used a similar filter but, added a 1k ohm resistor in the touch circuit input. I did that and it still did not work. These things radiate even when turned off! Just a hobby, right?

My wife, Debbie, N3NBW, suggested buying the neighbors a new light. Good idea, I wish I could. It turned out that the light was a gift to the gentleman of the house who has Alzheimer's disease. He used it as a night lamp since he has trouble turning on a normal light. A trip to the local discount hardware store and I had a replacement module and an adapter box that could make any metal lamp into a touch lamp. More experimentation. The module was almost as bad. I tried the adapter box and the noise was not present when it was plugged into the wall outlet. I turned on the lamp and the noise was greatly reduced as well as being below the 40 meter band. Yes!

Well, I'm back on the air now. My fist a little rusty, but, I am a little smarter now that I caught a real FOX! Now, let's band together to get restrictions on these RFI transmitters.

72 de Cameron, KT3A

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 04:11:30 1995
Date: Sun, 29 Jan 95 22:00:19 PST
From: dh@deneb.csustan.edu (Doug Hendricks)
Message-Id: <9501300600.AA01457@deneb.csustan.edu>
Subject: Spring QRP To The Field

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 04:12:41 1995
Date: Sun, 29 Jan 95 22:01:44 PST
From: dh@deneb.csustan.edu (Doug Hendricks)
Message-Id: <9501300601.AA01460@deneb.csustan.edu>

Subject: Spring QRP to the Field

SPRING QRP TO THE FIELD

1600Z to 2400Z, Saturday, April 1, 1995

Get ready for June Field Day, by testing equipment on the "Spring QRP to the Field" sponsored by the NorCal QRP Club.

Rules:

Single transmitter on the air at one time. Once started, you must use the same power output and location categories.

EXCHANGE: CW = RST & State, Province or Country
SSB = RS & State, Province or Country

QSO POINTS: 1 Watt or less CW = 10 points
SSB = 10 points
5 Watts or less CW = 5 points
SSB = 5 points
More than 5 W CW = 2 points
SSB = 1 point

MULTIPLIERS: Field location = 3.0 x multiplier (Field = battery power & temporary antennas.)
Home location = 1.0 x multiplier (Home = commercial power or permanent antennas)
Homebrew Equipment = 1.5 x multiplier (If you built it, it is homebrew to us)
Commercial Equipment = 1.0 x multiplier

FINAL SCORE Band/mode QSO points x location x equipment = band/mode total
Add all band/mode totals for final score.

AWARDS: "Top Ten" Scores certificate (Ten Stations with the highest point totals.)
Participant Certificate for 20 or more contacts from a field location. (Include a 9x12 manila envelope with 3 units of postage).

Send logs, station and location description along with a summary sheet and the usual signed declaration to:

Bob Farnworth, WU7F
6822 131 Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

Deadline for entries is May 1, 1995. All logs received after May 1 become check logs. All contest decisions made by the contest manager and are final.

The idea for this contest comes from the New England QRP Club who hosted the very popular QRP-AFIELD in the fall. Please circulate this announcement to

other QRPers and please include it in your QRP newsletters. Thanks to Bob who came forward and agreed to handle the contest for NorCal QRP Club.
72, Doug, KI6DS

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 14:59:18 1995
From: "Doyle, Ron" <doyler@uh2297p01.daytonoh.NCR.COM>
Subject: SSB Fox hunt. Correction.
Date: Mon Jan 30 13:27 EST 1995
Message-Id: <2F2D2F71@sdcwinn.daytonoh.ncr.com>

Boy was out of it. I didn't even put a date! I will on Tuesday evening and all times are est. For those who like zulu, its Wednesday Feb.1 starting at 0200z. Remember thats Tuesday evening for us folks in America or there bouts.

Hope to work you.

72

Ron Doyle, N8VAR
AT&T GIS - Dayton
Work (513) 445-3179
Home (513) 237-0790
<Ronald.Doyle@DaytonOH.NCR.COM> or
<RonaldDoyle@Ichange.com>

Practice Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 10:37:37 1995
From: "Doyle, Ron" <doyler@uh2297p01.daytonoh.NCR.COM>
Subject: SSB Fox, Be there or somewhere else.
Date: Mon Jan 30 07:57 EST 1995
Message-Id: <2F2CE2A0@sdcwinn.daytonoh.ncr.com>

The subject line is not mine, I stole that line from another message. Sounded good to me so I used it. May have been Chuck, K5F0, I can't remember.

I will be on the air to meet the challenge of all you "screaming QRPers", (another of Chuck's lines). Name here is Ron, N8VAR in Huber Heights, Ohio, near Dayton. I will be using a TS-430s turned down to 5 watts. The antenna will be a multi-band Dipole fed with coax, The feed point is at 20 ft. and the ends drooping to about 6 to 7 feet. Not ideal but function. Using a transmatch I am able to tune it to 1:1 on our favorite bands.

Like Paul, WB8ZJL, I will QSL 100% to my address - SWLs encouraged to QSL also!

Here's the sched:

09:00pm - 09:30pm 7.225 - 7.230 NO LOWER
09:30pm - 10:00pm 7.210 - 7.220
Band switch time.
10:00pm - 10:30pm 3.780 - 3.788
10:30pm - 11:00pm 3.905 - 3.910

I may go just a tad lower if I can't find any holes but only as a last resort.

My address is:
N8VAR Ron Doyle
6105 Sandbury
Huber Heights, OH 45424

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 13:36:54 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 08:16:10 -0600 (CST)
From: Jeff Gold <JMG@tntech.edu>
Subject: tac1
Message-Id: <01HMG8ILZQAACP0FT2@tntech.edu>

We'll think Mike said it all. .the TAC1 DOESN'T have noisy relays.. according to Dick for S&S it doesn't have relays.

73

Jeff,AC4HF

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 16:44:58 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 95 11:56:11 CST
From: msdooley@collie.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)
Message-Id: <9501301756.AA02765@collie.aud.alcatel.com>
Subject: Trip to San Fran!!!

Hey guys!

I'm coming to San Francisco and will be staying in Burlingame. I should arrive Tuesday night and be there through Friday or Saturday. Are there any good swap meets Saturday? I'm game for dinner, too!
Mike Dooley KE4PC

PS. Of course I'm going to try and make it to Wierd stuff, Surpls stuff and Frys while I'm there. P-)

M

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 23:45:42 1995
Message-Id: <m0rZ7Aq-00003iC@juts.ccc.amdahl.com>
Date: Monday, 30 January 1995 17:01 PT
From: bruce.florip@amail.amdahl.com
Subject: Trip to San Fran!!!

Mike, (about swapmeets in SF area on the W/E of the 4th and 5th.)

Are you sure you can't stay until Sunday? Sunday morning there is a really good (usually, except for heavy rain) Swapmeet in Livermore Ca. Just over the hill on 580 from Oakland. If you can make it, be up there around 7:00. From San Jose take 680 north to 580 east about 5 miles to Airway blvd. Follow the signs to the Los Poitas Ham Swap.

In the past, we have met out-o-towners at St Johns in Sunnyvale for lunch on Saturday. If there is enough interest it can be done while you're here.

73,
Bruce AA7AR/6

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 12:39:03 1995
Message-Id: <199501301331.IAA20617@slc5.INS.CWRU.Edu>
From: Stephen Trier <sct@po.cwru.edu>
Date: 30 Jan 1995 13:31:37 GMT
Subject: Tuning with switches

The TAC1 sounds like an interesting rig. Thanks for the review. I have been wondering about the fuss with tuning knobs. Yes, knobs are very nice, but shaft encoders are expensive! I wonder if a reasonable compromise might be a rig with an SPDT momentary-off-momentary switch. Throw the switch in one direction or another to tune. A pair of switches could be used for various speeds, or a second switch or a pot could control the rate of tuning on the main switch.

Has anyone tried something like this? Was it irritating or did it work? I know it's risky to play with user interfaces, esp. something as critical as a tuning knob!

Stephen

--

Stephen Trier "If it sounds good, it is good."
sct@po.cwru.edu - Duke Ellington
KG8IH

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 12:19:14 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 13:19:00 +0000
From: william.redfearn.cmwd01@nt.com
Message-Id: <"29038 Mon Jan 30 07:21:17 1995"@nt.com>
Subject: WANT: frequency display

Looking for frequency display to build into a QRP rig.
3 or 4 digit with low power display (like LCD).
needs to run off DC.
A kit would be OK.

=====
Dave Redfearn, SR PC LAN Analyst Northern Telecom RTP, NC.
ph.(919) 992-3925 email: cmwd01@nt.com qrl? de N4ELM/qrp

All opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of
my employer, co-workers or any other person, real or imaginary.

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Jan 30 11:59:41 1995
Date: Mon, 30 Jan 1995 13:22:00 +0000
From: william.redfearn.cmwd01@nt.com
Message-Id: <"29349 Mon Jan 30 07:24:33 1995"@nt.com>
Subject: WTB: OHR QRP Classic

Looking for an OHR Classic 2 band QRP rig.
Unbuilt or built (prefer working but hey!).
Trying to beat the OHR Winter sale price (\$209.95)

=====
Dave Redfearn, SR PC LAN Analyst Northern Telecom RTP, NC.
ph.(919) 992-3925 email: cmwd01@nt.com qrl? de N4ELM/qrp

All opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of
my employer, co-workers or any other person, real or imaginary.